



POWHATAN WMA – SUNFISH POND 2005



Sunfish Pond at the Powhatan Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Powhatan County is an aesthetically pleasing and serene place to fish. Powhatan is a rural county, and as such, peace and quiet is the norm. The boat ramp is primitive and shallow, but adequate for small boats. No gasoline motors are permitted.

An electrofishing sample was taken during June, 2004 to evaluate the status of the fish populations. Five species of fish were collected: largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, redear sunfish, and one channel catfish. The fishery appeared to be fairly balanced.

Largemouth bass abundance was a little below average for a pond of this size. However, there were some nice size fish as evidenced by the 21-inch and 23-inch bass that we collected. Adult bass were a little skinnier than we'd like to see. As in the nearby Bass Pond, this may be an indication of relatively low fertility in the pond.

Panfish were moderately abundant. Bluegill up to 8 inches were collected, and there was a very good supply of fish at 7-inches. Redear sunfish added a nice element to the panfish fishery with some reaching 9 inches. As with bass, adult sunfish of both species were relatively skinny. Of concern was the total lack of young bluegill and redear sunfish in our sample. This may indicate that reproduction failed during 2003 for some reason. Only two black crappie were collected, and they are not considered an important component of this small pond's fishery.

Water quality will be studied further to evaluate whether a fertilization program is practical and if it would improve the fishery substantially.